

Introduction

Renewing San José's promise of economic opportunity begins with our children, and their education. While our teachers and school districts play the leading role within the classroom, the City of San José can play a critically important supporting role by enabling every child to continue learning after the bell rings. Extended learning opportunities appear uniquely impactful on the social and academic development of low-income and at-risk children with working parents.

San José's afterschool homework centers of a decade ago provide a foundation for the City's engagement in supporting school-based programs that extend the learning day in ways that foster successful learners.

The focus of the SJ Learns Extended Learning Initiative is shaped by a few critical lessons from our collective experience in learning, as demonstrated by the academic research, as well as advances in policy and practice. First, ample studies demonstrate the crucial importance of learning by the third-grade threshold; that is, children reading at grade level and proficient in mathematics by the end of third grade demonstrate a substantially greater likelihood of success academically, including high school graduation and college attainment. Given the relatively large impact that extended learning at a young age can have on a child's future success, this initiative will initially focus its efforts on Kindergarten through third grade elementary school students.

Second, well-designed, innovative, and appropriately-staffed extended learning programs can deliver consistent achievement gains for and promote non-cognitive skills, such as resiliency, in younger students, particularly for English learners and children from low-income families. In light of ample examples of ineffective programs, a successful initiative must keep a rigorous focus on what the research reveals about best practices that will deliver the best outcomes.

Finally, San José's persistent achievement gap remains entrenched along racial, socio-economic, and geographic lines. Prioritizing scarce resources on innovative approaches in low-income communities can substantially reduce that gap. Making significant progress on raising student achievement by the third grade will require a commitment to innovation and to a partnership strategy that will leverage the talents, expertise and resources of all stakeholders: schools; students and parents; philanthropy, business and the city of San José

Shaped by the SJ Learns Working Group, a collection of educational experts and stakeholders, co-chaired by Dr. Emmett Carson, CEO and President of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, San José Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco and Matt Hammer, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Innovate Public Schools, the SJ Learns Extended Learning Initiative offers one strategy for confronting our achievement gap. Bringing together leaders from several sectors -- community, education, philanthropy and government-- enables the creation of a roadmap for a sustainable and impactful initiative to substantially expand the reach and quality of extended learning programs citywide. The San José City Council has approved Mayor Sam Liccardo's request for \$2 million over two years in the Mayor's Budget Message to provide seed funding for a larger initiative. This larger initiative will leverage the expertise and resources from foundations, the private sector, and school districts to broaden extended learning opportunities for low-income children in grades K – 3.

Problem Statement

Today, less than 10% of San José elementary school children participate in state-funded extended learning programs. The lack of public resources leaves a large number of our neediest students without such learning opportunities, because their families cannot afford paid tutoring, sports, or enrichment programs. Too many of our students lack the support to succeed academically, as seen throughout the data: some 62% of our San José students entering public high school in our three largest districts will fail to graduate having met the minimum entrance requirements for a public state university.

With support for school districts and their partners, the SJ Learns Extended Learning Initiative seeks to substantially increase the number of Kindergarten through third grade students from low-income neighborhoods who participate in these programs in order to reduce the achievement gap. With this Initiative, the City and community respond to the need to expand the availability of programs that nurture and foster confident and life-long learners.

Initiative Strategy

- Enable substantial gains in literacy and basic mathematics among San José elementary students from low-income families through an Initiative that allows for flexibility and innovation.
- Provide additional resources to school districts to increase the number of children from low-income San José communities attending quality extended learning programs that support academic goals and provide enrichment opportunities.
- Ensure the implementation of best practice in program design as well as field-tested quality assessment tools that will positively impact proficiency in reading and math.
- Leverage public funding with matching commitments from corporate, philanthropic and public sector partners to substantially expand access and opportunity.
- Define and report on Initiative success based on a proven framework that measures system, program, and student outcomes, such as the “Every Hour Counts Measurement Framework.”
- Facilitate dialogue and learning among participating districts to inform practice and policy.

Proposal Eligibility Criteria

Proposals from school districts, charter school networks or established elementary school coalitions, fulfilling the following criteria will be considered:

- Serve K – 3 students in the city of San José.
- Have approved, Local Control Accountability Plans in place that include:
 - Support for students who are below grade level or at-risk with the goal of making accelerated progress toward grade level proficiency;
 - Identify extended learning, after school programs as a key strategy or activity for improving student academic achievement in reading or mathematics;
 - Identify dedicated funding for extended learning programs that total at least 50% of the amount requested in the proposal.

Project Proposal Characteristics

Proposals will be considered that incorporate the following characteristics:

- Two-year program for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years that can include an initial planning and/or ramp-up period and minimum three-semester implementation period;
- Preference will be given to proposals with an implementation strategy that targets resources where proficiency gains are most needed and demonstrate potential for scaling-up and replication across district school sites.
- Leadership from District Office and collaborative program design and implementation strategy with school sites and service providers;
- Demonstrate programming that is research- and evidence-based; aligns extended-learning curriculum with in-school learning; and incorporates innovative strategies that promote active engagement of students in hands-on learning.
- Ensure the implementation of best practice in program design as well as field-tested quality assessment tools that will positively impact proficiency in reading and mathematics
- Focus on developing key 21st century skills (communication, critical thinking, collaboration and creativity).
- Incorporate rigorous monitoring and evaluation methods with capacity to measure changes in academic proficiency;
- Incorporate strategies that increase the relevance of learning through real-life applications;
- Engage with school staff parents, and service providers to design and deliver programs that provide ten to fifteen hours of extended learning time and require daily attendance;
- Demonstrate net gains in the number of students participating in extended learning programs as a result of the funding requested.
- Demonstrate commitment to the sharing of promising practices with Districts and community partners funded by the SJ Learns Initiative.

Application Process

Friday, April 17, 2015 to Friday, May 1, 2015, 5:00 PM	Request for Proposal (RFP) document comment period. Submit all comments to ingrid.holguin@sanjoseca.gov
Friday, May 15, 2105, 8:30 AM SJ Learns Working Group Meeting	Release of final RFP contingent on City budget approval.
Wednesday, June 24, 2015 or One day after San Jose City Budget approval	Notification of release of final RFP.
Friday, July 31, 2015 by 5:00 PM	Specific instructions on submitting proposals electronically will be announced
Monday, August 31, 2015	Proposal Awards announced

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

- Clear description of project goals, activities and outcomes including evaluation framework and methods;
- Deliver innovations in program design, implementation and/or monitoring and evaluation methods;
- Achievable timeline with benchmarks;
- Leverage existing infrastructure and planning to produce net gains in afterschool students served;
- Demonstrate capacity and commitment to participate in and contribute to an SJ Learns Grantee collaborative to share progress and learnings and inform ongoing strategies for sustainability and scale.
- Detailed budget demonstrating:
 - Matching funds of a minimum of \$0.50 of identified funding for each \$1.00 requested;
 - A maximum from City funds requested of 10% for planning and/or evaluation.
 - Per-student implementation costs within District standards.

Total Awards

\$250,000 - \$500,000 per school district, charter school network or established elementary school collaboratives.

Review and Selection Process

All proposals received by the deadline will be reviewed by the Initiative Project Manager for alignment with the Initiative goals and compliance with the criteria set forth in this Request for Proposals. Based on this review, the Project Manager will prepare a report to the SJ Learns Extended Learning Initiative Advisory Committee that provides a summary of each proposal along with a recommendation to approve or decline and accompanying analysis. The final decision to approve or decline a proposal and, in the case of approval, the funding amount rests with the Advisory Committee.

SJ Learns Extended Learning Initiative Working Group Members

Working Group Co-Chairs:

Dr. Emmett Carson	Silicon Valley Community Foundation	CEO & President
Hon. Magdalena Carrasco	City of San José	District 5 Councilmember
Matt Hammer	Innovate Public Schools	Executive Director & Co-Founder

Working Group Members:

Leticia Alvarez	People Acting in Community Together	Parent/board member
Dr. Eric Andrew	Campbell Union School District	Superintendent
Manny Barbara	Silicon Valley Education Foundation	Vice President, Advocacy and Thought Leadership
Dr. Hilaria Bauer	Alum Rock Union Elementary School District	Superintendent
Thelma Boac	Berryessa Union School District	Clerk of Board of Trustees
Marco Bravo, Ph.D.	Santa Clara University School of Education & Counseling Psychology	Associate Professor
Elaine Curran	Shortino Foundation	Executive Director
Hon. Pamela Foley	San Jose Unified School District	Board of Trustees Member
Kathy Gomez	Evergreen School District	Superintendent
Carrie Greco	People Acting in Community Together	Parent/board member
Hon. Darcie Green	Santa Clara County Office of Education	President of Board
Hon. Van Le	Eastside Union High School District	Board President
Dr. Virginia Lehmkuhl-Dakhwe	San Jose State University STEM Education	Director
Greg Lipmman	Ace Charter Schools	Executive Director
Dr. Meera Mani	The David and Lucile Packard Foundation-	Director, Children Families and Communities
Jose Manzo	Oak Grove School District	Superintendent
Karen Martinez	Alum Rock Union Elementary School District	Board of Trustees Member
Dr. Vince Matthews	San Jose Unified School District	Superintendent
Hon. Jeremy Nishihara	Oak Grove School District	Vice President of Board of Trustees
Dr. John Porter Jr.	Franklin-McKinley School District	Superintendent
Hon. Julie Reynolds-Grabbe	Moreland School District	Board Trustee
Hon. Don Rocha	City of San José	District 9 Councilmember
Jennifer Thomas	San José Teachers Association	President
Suzanne Wolf	City of San José, PRNS	Deputy Director

*SJ Learns Extended Learning Initiative: Closing the Elementary School Achievement Gap —
Request for Proposal Document for Comment: Amended April 17, 2015*

SJ Learns Extended Learning Initiative Advisory Committee

[Confirmation by all invited members remains pending]

Muhammed Chaudhry	President and CEO	Silicon Valley Education Foundation
Elaine Curran	Executive Director	Shortino Foundation
Gina Dalma	Director of Grantmaking	Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Hon. Darcie Green	President of Board	Santa Clara County Office of Education
Matt Hammer	Executive Director & Co-Founder	Innovate Public Schools
Ingrid Holguin	Policy Advisor for Strategic Partnerships	Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo
Jeff Sunshine	Program Officer and Manager Children, Families & Communities	The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Rick Williams	Executive Director	Sobrato Foundation
Kenji Treanor	Senior Program Officer, 21st Century Education	
Mara Wold	Monterey County Office of Education	Regional Lead, Region 5 After School Partnerships